



A disposition hearing was held in municipal court Friday, Aug. 22, where Stephens County Justice of the Peace Judge Steve Spoon ruled that the 17 dogs seized from a property earlier this month are to remain in the custody of Breckenridge Animal Control at the shelter.

Photo/Alex Kieilar

Animal cruelty case advances

Judge Spoon rules on dog disposition; two puppies to be euthanized

Alex Kieilar

news@breckenridgeamerican.com

Following a disposition hearing in which the defendants failed to appear, Stephens County Justice of the Peace Judge Steve Spoon ruled that the 17 dogs seized earlier this month from a property on the 1200 block of West Sixth Street will remain in the custody of Breckenridge Animal Control at the shelter.

The animals, found in various stages of malnourishment and neglect, will be held at the city shelter through the 10-day appeal window. After that period, their fate will be determined based on health eval-

uations and adoptability.

During the hearing held Friday, Aug. 22, Animal Control Officer Stephen Sharpe and Breckenridge Police Department Captain Jay Walker presented detailed accounts of the conditions on the property, 1226 West Sixth Street, describing dogs chained to trees, confined in overcrowded cages and surrounded by decaying wildlife with no access to food or water. Photographs presented to the court showed moldy food remnants, stagnant rainwater and the large chains tethering the dogs.

Sharpe said that he arrived at the property Thursday, Aug. 7 after an anon-

ymous neighbor called in regarding a dead hog and a dead chicken. After days of investigating, the 17 dogs were seized Tuesday, Aug. 12.

Two puppies that were described by Sharpe as severely malnourished and unresponsive to treatment, were ordered to be humanely euthanized.

“Unfortunately, the two small puppies don’t seem to be putting on weights and they are extremely malnourished,” Sharpe said. “I do not believe that, honestly, that they are salvageable at this point.”

Spoon said that the own-

See Case, Page 2

BISD library earns \$5,000 literacy grant

Alex Kieilar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

Breckenridge ISD Library Services is a recent recipient of a grant that will help support English Language Learners (ELL).

BISD announced Thursday, Aug. 14 that they received a \$5,000 grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation (DGLF). The grant project is entitled “Cultivating Reading

Confidence for English Language Learners.”

The funds will help the school district’s libraries purchase books for their English language learners across all four campuses to help support the learners’ overall reading confidence.

District Librarian Abby Moore said that she had applied to one of the Youth Literacy

See Grant, Page 3



A young student shows his mom the book he is reading during summer reading at the Breckenridge Library earlier this year.

Photo/Alex Kieilar

City announces public art contest, open to area artists

Alex Kieilar

news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The City of Breckenridge is inviting local artists and students to help transform downtown infrastructure into vibrant public art, in alignment with its strategic plan to promote beautification and community pride.

In partnership with the Breckenridge Downtown Development Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Breckenridge Fine Arts Center and with the consent of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the city has launched a Public Art Contest to cover

four utility structures with original artwork. The selected locations include signalization utility boxes at Highway 180/Highway 183, Highway 183/Court St., Highway 180/FM 3099 and the utility rock at Foundation Park.

The contest theme, “Celebrate Breckenridge Heritage,” encourages artists to reflect on the city’s cultural and historical identity through visual storytelling.

“We are excited about this contest. It’s a great partnership project,” Breckenridge City Manager Cynthia Northrop said. “A lot

See Contest, Page 3

Latvian students closing summer internships in Breckenridge

Alex Kieilar

news@breckenridgeamerican.com

Two college students from Latvia, Karlis Mednis and Gustavs Vanags, have spent the last three months traveling across North Texas as part of their summer internship with Southwestern Advantage, a U.S.-based educational sales and leadership program.

Their final stop has been the welcoming porches and streets of Breckenridge.

Vanags was in his third year of the program this year and is going into his senior year, and he recruited Mednis to join in over a phone call.

“It’s kind of funny. I was going to basketball practice with my teammate and a random number called me. And I was like, should I pick it up. And [my teammate] was like why not?” Mednis said. “And I picked it up, and he said, ‘Hello, my name is Gustavs, you probably



Partaking in an internship program with Southwestern Advantage in Texas this summer were Latvian college students Karlis Mednis, left, and Gustavs Vanags as they finished their summers up staying in Breckenridge.

Photo/Alex Kieilar

don’t know me but I work at this company, Southwestern Advantage, and I wanted to tell you about an opportunity to come to America and sell books.”

Initially skeptical, Mednis assumed the job involved selling fiction.

“I was like, no way I’m going to sacrifice my summer with friends and everything else and come to America to sell Harry Potter books,” he said. “Then I came to the first meeting and he

See Students, Page 3

Weekly Local Forecast

Wednesday, Aug. 27 High 94 Low 75 Precipitation 7%	Thursday, Aug. 28 High 99 Low 72 Precipitation 12%	Friday, Aug. 29 High 90 Low 69 Precipitation 24%	Saturday, Aug. 30 High 86 Low 67 Precipitation 24%
Sunday, Aug. 31 High 83 Low 67 Precipitation 39%	Monday, Sept. 1 High 84 Low 66 Precipitation 24%	Tuesday, Sept. 2 High 86 Low 67 Precipitation 24%	Hubbard Creek At capacity: 1,183.00 Current: 1,171.09

Cap. Highlights	2	Contest	2, 5
Classifieds	6-7	Opinion	4-5
Entertainment	7	Sports	8

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE @BRECKENRIDGEAMERICAN



Banking at Your Fingertips, Anytime, Anywhere.



101 E Walker St | 254.559.2222 | www.clearfork.bank

Obituaries



Barbara Jean Atkinson
 March 16, 1939 – Aug. 22, 2025
Lester Buford Atkinson
 Jan. 17, 1935 – Aug. 22, 2025

Barbara Atkinson, 86 of Woodson, passed away Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025. Lester Atkinson, 90 of Woodson, passed away Friday, Aug. 22, 2025. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26 at First Baptist Church Woodson with Jeremy Smith and Pete

Parker officiating. Interment followed in the Woodson Cemetery under the direction of Morehart Mortuary. Visitation was held from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25 at Morehart Mortuary.

Lester Buford Atkinson was born Jan. 17, 1935 in Woodson, to parents William Alvin Atkinson and Odessa Wright Atkinson. After graduation, he joined the United States Army until his honorable discharge in 1956. Lester then went to work for Texas Electric which eventually became TXU. He worked there for many years until his retirement. Lester was active in the VFW, the American Legion and the Sheriff's Posse. Barbara Jean Hutson was born March 16, 1939 in Nocona, to parents Leo Forrest Hutson and Opal Inez Lanford Hutson. She was involved in Desk & Derrick Club, the Red Hat Society and the Fellowship Committee of Woodson Baptist Church. On June 25, 1955, Lester and Barbara were married in Haskell. The two raised their three children and eventually made their home in Woodson. They were active members of the First Baptist Church of Woodson.

Mrs. Atkinson was preceded in death by her parents; one brother and sister-in-law, Jack and Barbara Hutson; one sister, Judy Hutson; and two nephews. Mr. Atkinson was preceded in death by his loving wife of 70 years by 16 hours and 27 minutes; his parents; and four brothers, James K. Atkinson, Kenneth Atkinson, Ray Atkinson, Frank Atkinson.

Mr. & Mrs. Atkinson are survived by their three children, Sheilah Atkinson Owens and husband Curtis of Woodson, Les Atkinson and wife Terri, Mike Atkinson and wife Terryll, all of Breckenridge; eighteen grandchildren, Amber Atkinson, Jodie Gould and husband Brock, Kaily Stone and husband Shelby, Kayla Atkinson, Mikki Shaw and husband Michael, Molli Roark and husband Dan, Macci Cominsky and husband Casey, Bailee Hill, Jason Anderson, and wife Stephanie, Leslie Atkinson, Joshua Anderson and wife Cayce, Chris Owens and wife Jami, Kyle Atkinson, Brodee Atkinson, Bryce Hill, Braxton Walker and wife Lorena, Lincoln Finkbeiner and Grant Finkbeiner; thirty great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Atkinson is also survived by two brothers, Doyce Hutson and wife Carol, Terry Hutson and wife Vera. Mr. Atkinson is also survived by two siblings, Wilburn Atkinson and wife Joyce, Donna Atkinson Rials.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Woodson School Library or to the VFW Post 7767 of Breckenridge and may be left at Morehart Mortuary. Condolences may be made online at www.morehartmortuary.net. Busape nobis exerceo

Local girl competing in Toddler of the Year contest

Alex Kielar
 news@breckenridgeamerican.com

A local two-year-old is competing in Colossal's Toddler of the Year competition, a nationwide campaign that supports Toys for Tots.

Young Eliana of Breckenridge, daughter of Daniel and Karina Sims, is currently in the group round of voting for the contest.

"Eliana is a beautiful two-year-old whose independent spirit shines in everything she does. Even at such a young age, she knows what she wants and approaches life with determination and joy," Daniel Sims said. "We admire her confidence and individuality every day."

Daniel described Eliana's favorite activities as being silly, playing on the playground and enjoying being read to and coloring.

The winner of the competition not only gets the title of Toddler of the Year, but will also star in a na-



Young two-year-old Eliana Sims of Breckenridge, daughter of Daniel and Karina Sims, is currently competing in the group round of voting for Colossal's nationwide Toddler of the Year competition.

Contributed photo

tional ad campaign and lead the Hollywood Christmas Parade.

The winning family also receives a \$25,000 cash prize and a trip to Peppa Pig Theme Park in Dallas-Fort Worth.

The top five from each group advanced to the group finals,

and Eliana placed fourth in her group to advance. The voting window for the group finals goes from Aug. 21 through Aug. 28.

"Eliana's journey in this competition is about so much more than a title—it's about hope. We work hard

See Eliana, Page 5

Air Smart, Inc.
 BRECKENRIDGE, TX
 BRENNAN MOORE
 NATASHA MOORE
 OWNERS
Air Conditioning & Heating
 441 Oak St.
 Graham, TX 76450
940.549.0929
 www.airsmartinc.com
 Lic. # TACLA135593E
 NATE WE EMPLOY NATE-CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS
 ACCREDITED BUSINESS
 22272

NOW OPEN!
HAWK STEEL
 INDUSTRIES
SCRAP METAL DEALER
 340 FM 4 • JACKSBORO, TX 76458
 682-287-1090
 OPEN: 8:30 AM - 4 PM MONDAY - FRIDAY
 29131

Case

Continued from Page 1

ers lose the right to appeal on those euthanizations due to the health reasons.

An additional adult dog may be euthanized at the discretion of the animal control staff.

"I'm going to give you guys discretion on how to go forward with that since you're seeing them every day and have been with them from the beginning," Spoon said.

Sharpe said that he has dewormed and treated the dogs with vitamins.

"Some are respond-

ing to that," he said. "Some of them aren't."

Walker added in his testimony that the property is expansive and littered with deer carcasses, empty kennels, dogs in kennels and dogs in chains. He described it as being like a "dog business," with signs of organized breeding or hunting activity.

"Once you walk from the street into the area, even in open air, the smell of old carcasses just knocks you over," Walker said.

"The game warden (Clifton Westbrook) made a com-

ment that if there was one or two [dogs], that would have been one thing. This looks like it's part of an enterprise."

If the defendants, named as the "Trevinos" in the case, wish to appeal, they must pay \$2,000 to cover housing and euthanisa costs.

Sharpe estimated that maybe about 25% of the dogs are adoptable, primarily "some of the younger ones and some of the less malnourished."

The rest will be evaluated after the appeal window to determine

whether they be placed or must be euthanized.

BPD and animal control will come back to the court regarding the costs and how to move forward once the next determinations are made.

Criminal charges for animal cruelty are also expected to be filed in District Court in the near future, separate from the 154 municipal citations already issued for violations including unlawful restraint, lack of shelter and unsanitary conditions.

Support Your Local Businesses

WHEN YOU SPEND HERE your money stays here

When you shop local, more of your money is reinvested into local schools, jobs, taxes, wages and other communal needs.

To be featured on our Local Businesses page, give us a call at 254-559-5412!

A/C & HEATING
K & S AIR CONDITIONING
 Owner: Kelsey Otts
 • Heating • Cooling
 • Appliance Repair
 Proudly Serving Our Hometown!
254-559-2510
 Lic#TACLB37255E
 20234

ELECTRICAL SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL SERVICES

 TECL29483
 Office/On-Call
254-559-0449
 Johnny C. Wade
254-246-0735
 18-603

REAL ESTATE

McLemore Properties
RICHARD SCHREIBER
 Agent - McLemore Properties
 Cell: 940.733.0316 • Office: 940.574.4888
 richards@mclemore-properties.com
 www.mclemore-properties.com
 20001

A/C & HEATING

REAGLE AIR
 HEATING & COOLING
 Service Guaranteed • Financing Available
 Appliance Repair
 3016 W. Walker • Breckenridge, TX 76424
254-559-8311
833-854-8311
 www.reagleair.net
 American Standard HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
 Manuel Perez State Lic. #TACLB38654C
 CUSTOMER CARE DEALER
 20233

Advertise your local business!
Call us at 254-559-5412 today!

Contest

Continued from Page 1

of cities are doing this type of public art, with a type of utility boxes, with an emphasis on downtown beautification.”

Northrop added that the artwork that is selected as winners of the contest will be on display for five years before they redo the contest.

The contest is open to all Breckenridge area artists and Breckenridge High School students.

Entries are being accepted through Tuesday, Sept. 30 by 5 p.m. A \$25 entry fee applies, but is waived for BHS students. All participants must sign a release granting permis-



An example of artwork on a utility box in the City of San Angelo. The city of Breckenridge is conducting a public art contest open to local artists and students.

Contributed photo

sion for their artwork to be used.

Prizes will be awarded in two categories. BHS students will compete for a \$500 scholarship, with the winning design displayed at Hwy 180/Court. Local artists will vie for cash prizes and public display opportunities: \$200 for first place (Hwy 180/Hwy 183), \$150 for second (Hwy

180/FM 3099) and \$100 for third (Foundation Park).

Judging will be coordinated by the Breckenridge Fine Arts Center, with panelists to be announced.

Submissions should be delivered to City Hall at 105 N. Rose Street. For full contest details go to breckenridgetx.gov/about/public_art_contest.php.

Students

Continued from Page 1

showed me the books. And they're actually educational books; since I took AP chemistry, math and biology in high school, I was like, wow, this could actually help me. And now I'm here.”

The internship began in June, with Mednis going to Vernon, Wichita Falls, Graham and Jacksboro before finishing up in Breckenridge. Vanags was in Olney, Seymour and Iowa Park, and drove out to Eastland and Cisco from Breckenridge.

The pair have stayed with a host family in Breckenridge as well with other host families throughout their travels.

“We ask people, since it's like an exchange program for us, could you host us for a few weeks?” Mednis said. “And I met one open-minded family who said sure. So we got a host family here in Breckenridge for the last week.”

Vangas added, “Mostly we were staying with the host family. They are really great people—Albert and Tracy. They hosted the same program students two years ago and they were like, yeah sure why not?”

The Southwestern Advantage program emphasizes personal growth as much as sales.

While it helps the interns pay for their college tuition, it's much more than that.

“I guess the reason why we actually do it, it's not just to come here and sell books and make money,” Vanags said. “It's not really the whole point of the program. I guess the bigger reason why we're actually doing it is just to learn the skills and character you need for life.”

He added that a lot of college kids, like their classmates, work student jobs that don't open up as many opportunities.

“You work with people and everything; you're kind of meeting people all day long,” Vanags said. “And we get to meet thousands of people through the whole summer, and just get to build that discipline.”

Each day, the students go door-to-door, introducing them-

selves and sharing educational tools that range from early childhood learning to college prep.

“We just go and knock on the door and kind of introduce ourselves and tell them what we're doing,” Vanags said. “And if people are interested, they let us in the house. Or sometimes, we sit on the porch with the people and show our books to people, explain what we do and where we come from.”

The pair reflected on what the program has done for its customers.

“The books actually help people. We've got so many testimonials of people saying that because of these books, my kids went to college and got into DI schools,” Mednis said. “I had one mom...I stopped by and she bought the books like five years ago. She said because of the program, her daughter got into Texas Tech.”

Vangas added that many times they will stop by a house and the family recalls the Southwestern Company.

“They will be like, ‘Yeah we had this guy stop by five years ago,’ and sometimes kids will come out and pull out the books,” Vangas said. “You can see that they're still using them after five years.”

The hospitality that they have encountered has been a highlight.

“There's a saying in Texas that, you know, there's a special southern hospitality,” Mednis said. “And you can really feel it. During hot days, you don't have to ask for cold water. They are like, do you

want water, Gatorade, and they just love to help out.”

While most interactions are positive, occasional skepticism arises.

“Sometimes we come to a door, we have an accent and the people haven't seen us on Facebook or something, they'll get sketched out,” Mednis said. “But honestly, once we get the chance to explain that we're college kids from Europe and we sell educational books, everybody is pretty friendly. And the worst thing they say is no, we're not interested. And then we just leave.”

Vangas shared a recent example: “I was knocking pretty late at like 9:00 and a dad came out. He was super sketched out, all defensive. Then I explained I'm a college student from Europe, I'm selling these educational tools. And he said not right now, but come back tomorrow.”

As their summer winds down, Mednis and Vanags will continue to reflect on the friendships, lessons and stories they'll take back to Latvia.

“For me, it's probably just the people, honestly,” Mednis said. “I feel like everyone is super friendly and kind. Most of the time, we're from Europe and people are like, oh, that's cool. It's just very easy to talk to everybody and everybody is interested in us. We're interested in the culture here.”

Mednis and Vanags will return home soon, carrying more than just books—they'll carry the spirit of Texas hospitality and a summer of growth.

Grant

Continued from Page 1

grants from the DGLF last April.

The nationwide literacy foundation offers grants each year for various literacy initiatives and programs, with grants being awarded across the country for a maximum of \$5,000 each. The Youth Literacy Grant that Moore had applied for is open to schools, public libraries and non-profit organizations that help K-12 students that are below level or having trouble reading. The grant funding is provided to assist in the following areas:

Implementing new or expanding existing literacy programs

Purchasing new technology or equipment to support literacy initiatives

Purchasing books, materials or software for literacy programs

“This is the first time I have ever written a grant, and I honestly wasn't sure I would get it. Many of my fellow librarian colleagues have missed out on the DGLF grant before, so I went in with low expectations,” Moore said. “I was so thrilled to find out that I received it!”

Moore described that for the past 17 years that she has been a librarian, one of the biggest challenges has been providing enough books for students who enter BISD schools with little to no English skills.

“These students, known as English Language Learners, often feel overwhelmed as they adjust to a new school environment,” Moore said. “Many are fluent readers in their home language, and having access to books they can understand provides comfort, confidence, and a way to stay connected with their love of reading.”

Moore said that up until now, she had stretched her bookfair earnings to purchase some Spanish-language materials for the campus libraries, since most of their ELL students speak Spanish – with some Vietnamese and other language speakers.

“Unfortunately, my regular book budget is only about \$3,000 per campus per year, so it has been difficult to purchase enough high-quality books in other languages on top of the necessary purchases we make each year,” Moore said. “That's why I applied for this grant. My project, titled ‘Cultivating Reading Confidence for English Language Learners,’ will allow

us to build a stronger collection of books in students' home language, as well as bilingual and lower-level English materials to support language growth.”

Moore stated that each of the four campus libraries at BISD will receive about \$1,250 worth of new materials—roughly 60-70 books each—dedicated specifically for their ESL students.

“While this won't create a huge collection overnight, it's an important step forward,” Moore said. “Ultimately, my goal as a librarian is to help all of our students become lifelong readers. For our English language learners, that means giving them stories they can enjoy right now, in the language they understand best, while also supporting their journey toward learning English. Thanks to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, we'll finally be able to provide that in a meaningful way.”

Besides BISD, 62 other programs in Texas received the grant, among 711 nationally.

IF WE DON'T HAVE WHAT YOU WANT, WE'LL GET IT FOR YOU!

Selling Fun Since 1978

D&J's Polaris

506 Southview • Graham, TX 76450 • 940-549-6182 • dandjpolaris.com
9:30 am - 5:00 pm Tuesday - Friday • 9:30 am - 3:00 pm Saturday

CHAMBER CORNER

BRECKENRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
of COMMERCE
BRECKENRIDGETEXAS.COM

BRECKENRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

18 Hole Scramble

JOHNNY BATES MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Hole in One Prize **\$10,000**
\$25 Entry Fee

SATURDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2025
Tee Times 08:00 AM & 1:00 PM
Thank You Breckenridge Country Club

CASH PAYOUT
DOOR PRIZES
BALL DRAW \$25 to Enter

REGISTRATION
2 Player Team - \$200
Participants will receive a free golf towel and lunch

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT 2025

Register Now
<https://square.link/u/UEObDg0s>

254-559-2301 chamber@breckenridgetexas.com

100 E. ELM ST. | 254-559-2301

BRECKENRIDGETEXAS.COM

THIS SPACE PROVIDED COURTESY OF THE BRECKENRIDGE AMERICAN

TEXAS PEACE OF MIND

BE TOUGH WHEN IT'S TOUGH TO TALK.

EVEN THE TOUGHEST PEOPLE NEED HELP SOMETIMES.

AgriStress HELPLINE For Texans
833.897.2474 CALL OR TEXT

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

START WITH A SIMPLE CALL

Scan the code and save the number.

What's next for Texas assessment? Keep what works and improve

Texas is entering a new chapter in how we measure student learning. Conversations are swirling about what could come after we retire the current state assessment, the STAAR exam.

That includes questions like: What needs to change? How can we do better?

Evolving our systems is part of how we improve. But as we look ahead, we cannot afford to lose what has made Texas a reliable leader in school transparency. We should build on the good things that we've done, not bulldoze them altogether.

Assessment is not just about testing. It is about accurately measuring learning. At its best, a statewide assessment is a tool for transparency, for accountability, and for action.

Texas has gotten important parts of that right, and we should



Gabe Grantham

Texas 2036

protect them.

First, STAAR is made for Texas, by Texas. The test is built around our own academic standards and reviewed by Texas teachers who understand what mastery looks like in our classrooms.

These teachers are able to assess if the questions are actually on grade level and are connected to real classroom experience. That's not just a technical detail. It is vital that our assessment is grounded in the priorities and expectations of this state, not bor-

rowed from elsewhere or driven by generic benchmarks.

Second, STAAR measures whether students are meeting Texas grade-level standards, not just whether they are progressing, or trying, or even just doing better than their peers. It answers the fundamental question that every parent and policymaker should be asking: are our students on track? Often students can be bringing home A's and B's on report cards but may still struggle to read on grade level.

Surveys found that nine in 10 parents believe that their students are on grade level in reading, a startling number when the reality in Texas is that only 54% of students are actually on grade level. A strong assessment system helps bring clarity and honesty so that students can receive the support they need. We

should not walk away from that.

Third, STAAR raised the bar for transparency. Parents can log in and see exactly how their child answered each question. They can see where their child struggled and where they succeeded. That kind of visibility builds trust. It puts real information in the hands of families and opens the door to meaningful conversations among parents, students, and teachers on how to put students on the path to success.

And finally, STAAR provides consistent, statewide data that helps leaders make better decisions. When the same rules apply across the board, we can see where progress is happening, where resources are needed, and where systems are working, or not. A strong assessment

See Grantham, Page 5

Ask Rusty:

How do I apply for Social Security and receive my payments?

Dear Rusty: I'm ready to apply for my Social Security benefits, and I'm aware of how my benefits are calculated. What I would like to know about is how the application process actually works and how my benefits are received. **Signed: Ready to Collect**

Dear Ready to Collect: Essentially, you have two main options for applying for Social Security benefits, and also two separate options for receiving your payments:

To apply for benefits, you can either contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to complete your application while speaking to an SSA representative on the phone, or you can submit your application for SS benefits online.

When using the telephone option, you will be guided by an SSA agent while completing your application and can discuss your benefit options directly with that agent (just be sure to be available to receive SSA's call at the scheduled time). You can also make an appointment by calling your local SS field office directly (get the number for your local SS office at this link: www.ssa.gov/locator). It is not usually necessary to visit your local SSA office in person to apply.

If you are reasonably proficient with computers, you can, instead, apply online, but you will first need to create your personal SSA account online at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you will be able to see your estimated benefit amount at different claim ages, which should help you decide when it is best to apply. Here is a short video which explains the process for ap-



Russell Gloor

Social Security Matters

plying for benefits online: https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm.

If applying online, you can start your online application at www.ssa.gov/apply and re-access it multiple times as needed until you are ready to submit it; just be sure to write down the "reentry code" which is provided when you begin your online application.

When you are ready to submit the application, just select "Submit" and your application will be sent to SSA's application processing unit for review. They will contact you if there are any questions about your application, or if any additional documentation is needed. Note that it typically takes a couple of months for your payments to start and note that payment is made in the month following the month earned. For example, if you begin your benefits in August your first payment will be received in September (on either the 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Wednesday of each month thereafter, depending on your birthday).

For receiving your monthly SS payments: you will (on your application) be able to specify how you wish your monthly payments to be made. The preferred option used by most beneficiaries is to have your monthly Social Security payment deposited into a financial (e.g., bank) account, details for which you

See Matters, Page 5

Reading the barometer

We knew it was coming when Bert came into the Mule Barn truck stop the other day. He took his usual stool at the philosophy counter and world dilemma think tank, where he reigns as Cutting Edge Technology Advisor to the board of directors.

It was that glint in his eye that gave it away. "Hi Bert."

"Hi Doc. Say, isn't this a beautiful day? It's 32 out there."

"Doesn't seem that cold," said Steve, our resident cowboy, who tends to look at everything from the back of

a horse.

"Oh, not 32 degrees, dear friend ..."

Dear friend? We're in for it.

"...but 32 inches of mercury in the barometer. Winds are calm. Sun is shining. No chance of snow."

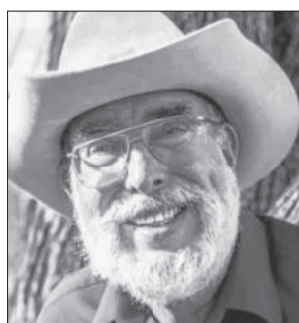
"You have a barometer?"

"Oh yeah. You can't always depend on the TV weather guy, you know. You see, it's not just where the barometer is that tells you what the weather's like, but it's where it is now in relation to where it was before. That's what

they call the trend."

"Heard that word before," said Doc.

"It's scientific. Got a book about it the other day. Maizie picked it up at the library. You see, to the layman, the world outside looks kinda nice, doesn't it? Sunshine, no wind. Looks like a beautiful day. But to the expert ... to the meteorologist ... that's just the start. Oh yes. He'll look outside at the beautiful weather, but he realizes it's simply a precursor to the weather we'll have tomorrow. He'll know, you see, from how the mercu-



Slim Randles

Home Country

ry is responding in the glass ... we call the barometer a glass ... what kind of weather to expect tomorrow. That's what sets us apart from other people."

"Because you read a book?"

"... And I have my weather station ... yes."

"So what kinda weather is coming tomorrow, Bert?"

"Oh ... 'bout like today."

"So the barometer told you that?"

Bert looked a little sheepish. "I didn't have time to figure it out. Heard it on the news."

To reach me (and please do), try Slim Randles at homecountry8.com or (505) 306-6009. A newspaperman since 1964, Slim has been a columnist and feature writer for newspapers in Alaska and New Mexico: *The Anchorage Daily News* and *The Albuquerque Journal*.

The Breckenridge American offers local readers an opportunity to share their opinions on community topics and issues of public importance. Mail or deliver letters to the office at 114 E. Elm Street in Breckenridge, or e-mail letters to editor@breckenridgeamerican.com. The deadline is 5 p.m. Friday for the mid-week edition. Letters that do not meet the deadline will not be printed in the paper. Letters must be submitted by the author/signee, and not by a third-party on behalf of the author/signee. Letters must contain the author's first name, last name, complete address, and telephone number. Only the writer's name and title of the letter, as appropriate, will be published with the letter. Names cannot be withheld. Letters from any candidate who is actively running for any political office will not be published. Writers may submit letters of up to 500 words. Letters are not guaranteed to be published in the next edition, but every effort to do so will be made. Unverified letters and letters containing personal attacks the newspaper deems to be of a libelous nature will not be published. In any event, the newspaper reserves the sole discretion to decide whether or not a reader submission will be published. All letters and columns featured on the Opinion Page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Breckenridge American.

Breckenridge American

www.breckenridgeamerican.com • Telephone (254) 559-5412

Breckenridge American (USPS 063-720/ISSN 2834-1082) is a publication of Palo Pinto Communications, LP and is published every Wednesday by Palo Pinto Communications LP, 1108 W. Walker St., Breckenridge, Texas 76424.

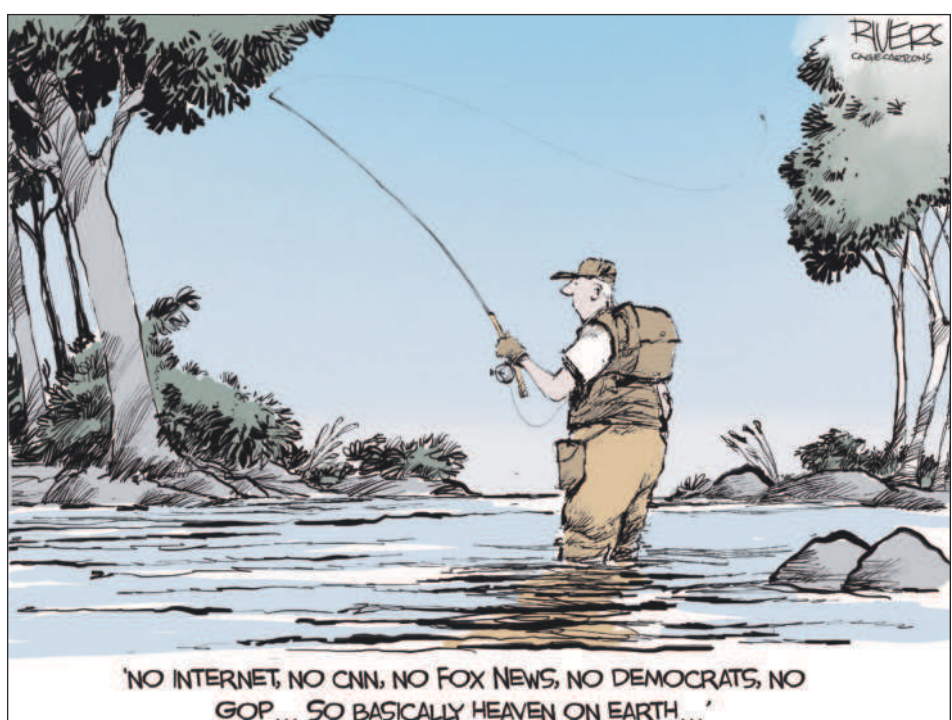
Kylie Bailey, Publisher • kbailey@grahamleader.com	SUBSCRIPTIONS
Alex Kielar • news@breckenridgeamerican.com	Stephens Co. – \$45.00/yr
Kaci Funderburg • admgr@breckenridgeamerican.com	Adjoining County – \$55.00/yr
Tashia Christianson • circulation@grahamleader.com	In-State – \$65.00/yr
	Outside of Texas – \$84.00/yr

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT © 2024 BRECKENRIDGE AMERICAN AND PALO PINTO COMMUNICATIONS, LP
Periodicals postage paid at Breckenridge, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Breckenridge American, PO Box 871, Breckenridge, TX 76424-0871.

MEMBER 2022 TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

West Texas Press Association

Breckenridge American and www.breckenridgeamerican.com as well as any reasonable derivative of these names, are trademarks of Palo Pinto Communications, LP and use of these trademarks without the express written consent of Palo Pinto Communications, LP is strictly prohibited. The entire contents of each issue of the Breckenridge American and www.breckenridgeamerican.com are protected under the Federal Copyright Act. Reproduction of any portion of any issue or any content within will not be permitted without the express permission of Palo Pinto Communications, LP.



Grantham

Continued from Page 4

equips district leaders and teachers with the information needed to improve instruction, adopt new programs, and implement best practices. It ensures that success isn't defined differently from district to district or clouded by subjective measures.

This type of deci-

sion-making is what makes a difference for students. Campuses using state assessment data to implement initiatives like the Additional Day School Year Program have increased achievement by as much as 17 percentage points in a single year.

We can absolutely make the next chapter of assessment even

stronger.

We can streamline, modernize and ensure that results come faster and with better context for both teachers and parents. But we should not lose pieces of what has made STAR valuable.

Texas students deserve a system that tells the truth about how they're doing and helps adults take ac-

tion. That's what assessments are for. As we move forward, let's be bold about improving it, and just as bold about preserving what works.

•••

Grantham is an education policy advisor for Texas 2036, a non-profit public policy organization dedicated to improving opportunities for all Texans.

Matters

Continued from Page 4

will specify when applying. However, you can also choose to receive your monthly payments in the form of a debit card (called "Direct Express") which will be replenished monthly. If you choose to have your payment deposited in your bank account, be sure to have your bank account information ready when you apply. Note that Social Security no longer issues payments via printed checks (except in rare circumstances).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National SS Association. NSSA and the foundation and staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the SS Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory.

Eliana

Continued from Page 2

to provide for Eliana and her seven-year-old brother, Gabriel, despite facing the challenges of rising costs and our home's serious repairs," Daniel Sims said. "Our house has a foundation that is unlevel, a leaking roof, and other areas of disrepair, making daily life difficult and limiting our ability to give our children fun and enriching experiences. Yet, Eliana's spirit never waivers; she inspires us and those around her."

Listed below are each round of voting following the groups being narrowed down to the top five.

Group Finals: Aug. 21-28 - The top competitor

in each group advances to the quarterfinals.

Wildcard Round: Aug. 29-31 - A short round giving the 2nd place finishers from group finals one more change to enter the quarterfinals.

Quarterfinals: Sept. 1-11 - Group champions from earlier rounds compete; top vote-getter in each group advances to semifinals.

Semifinals: Sept. 12-18 - Same format, narrowing down to the finalists.

Finals: Sept. 19-25 - Votes reset again; the winner is chosen entirely by public vote.

Winner Announcement: On or before Oct. 10.

To vote online for Eliana visit <https://toderoftheyear.org/2025/eliana-0806> and use a daily free vote or make a tax-deductible donation which helps spread joy to children in need during the holiday season.

"Winning Toddler of the Year would mean everything to Eliana and our family. The \$25,000 cash prize and trip to Peppa Pig Theme Park

would allow us to create special memories together, help us pay essential bills and restore our home to a safe and welcoming place," Daniel Sims said. "Above all, we hope that by getting Eliana's name out there, people will be moved by her story and vote for her - giving her the recognition she truly deserves."

Leaf Filter
Gutter Protection
2025 Summer Home Protection Event!
LIFETIME TRANSFERABLE WARRANTY
End Cleaning Out Gutters!
Zero Clogged Gutters Guaranteed
Without LeafFilter
With LeafFilter
Promo Code: 285
CALL 833-460-3020 FOR A FREE INSPECTION!
*Promotional offer includes 20% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. One coupon per household. See obligation estimate valid for 1 year. *See Representative for full warranty details. See website for all terms and registration numbers: 36482023 AZ ROC 344027, CA 1037916, CT HCT2071203, FL CFC056676, IA CFC709, IL CFC056676, LA 39364, MA 17047, MD MRC11122, MI 26200177, 26200018, 26200019, 26200020, 26200021, 26200022, 26200023, 26200024, 26200025, 26200026, 26200027, 26200028, 26200029, 26200030, 26200031, 26200032, 26200033, 26200034, 26200035, 26200036, 26200037, 26200038, 26200039, 26200040, 26200041, 26200042, 26200043, 26200044, 26200045, 26200046, 26200047, 26200048, 26200049, 26200050, 26200051, 26200052, 26200053, 26200054, 26200055, 26200056, 26200057, 26200058, 26200059, 26200060, 26200061, 26200062, 26200063, 26200064, 26200065, 26200066, 26200067, 26200068, 26200069, 26200070, 26200071, 26200072, 26200073, 26200074, 26200075, 26200076, 26200077, 26200078, 26200079, 26200080, 26200081, 26200082, 26200083, 26200084, 26200085, 26200086, 26200087, 26200088, 26200089, 26200090, 26200091, 26200092, 26200093, 26200094, 26200095, 26200096, 26200097, 26200098, 26200099, 26200100, 26200101, 26200102, 26200103, 26200104, 26200105, 26200106, 26200107, 26200108, 26200109, 26200110, 26200111, 26200112, 26200113, 26200114, 26200115, 26200116, 26200117, 26200118, 26200119, 26200120, 26200121, 26200122, 26200123, 26200124, 26200125, 26200126, 26200127, 26200128, 26200129, 26200130, 26200131, 26200132, 26200133, 26200134, 26200135, 26200136, 26200137, 26200138, 26200139, 26200140, 26200141, 26200142, 26200143, 26200144, 26200145, 26200146, 26200147, 26200148, 26200149, 26200150, 26200151, 26200152, 26200153, 26200154, 26200155, 26200156, 26200157, 26200158, 26200159, 26200160, 26200161, 26200162, 26200163, 26200164, 26200165, 26200166, 26200167, 26200168, 26200169, 26200170, 26200171, 26200172, 26200173, 26200174, 26200175, 26200176, 26200177, 26200178, 26200179, 26200180, 26200181, 26200182, 26200183, 26200184, 26200185, 26200186, 26200187, 26200188, 26200189, 26200190, 26200191, 26200192, 26200193, 26200194, 26200195, 26200196, 26200197, 26200198, 26200199, 26200200, 26200201, 26200202, 26200203, 26200204, 26200205, 26200206, 26200207, 26200208, 26200209, 26200210, 26200211, 26200212, 26200213, 26200214, 26200215, 26200216, 26200217, 26200218, 26200219, 26200220, 26200221, 26200222, 26200223, 26200224, 26200225, 26200226, 26200227, 26200228, 26200229, 26200230, 26200231, 26200232, 26200233, 26200234, 26200235, 26200236, 26200237, 26200238, 26200239, 26200240, 26200241, 26200242, 26200243, 26200244, 26200245, 26200246, 26200247, 26200248, 26200249, 26200250, 26200251, 26200252, 26200253, 26200254, 26200255, 26200256, 26200257, 26200258, 26200259, 26200260, 26200261, 26200262, 26200263, 26200264, 26200265, 26200266, 26200267, 26200268, 26200269, 26200270, 26200271, 26200272, 26200273, 26200274, 26200275, 26200276, 26200277, 26200278, 26200279, 26200280, 26200281, 26200282, 26200283, 26200284, 26200285, 26200286, 26200287, 26200288, 26200289, 26200290, 26200291, 26200292, 26200293, 26200294, 26200295, 26200296, 26200297, 26200298, 26200299, 26200300, 26200301, 26200302, 26200303, 26200304, 26200305, 26200306, 26200307, 26200308, 26200309, 26200310, 26200311, 26200312, 26200313, 26200314, 26200315, 26200316, 26200317, 26200318, 26200319, 26200320, 26200321, 26200322, 26200323, 26200324, 26200325, 26200326, 26200327, 26200328, 26200329, 26200330, 26200331, 26200332, 26200333, 26200334, 26200335, 26200336, 26200337, 26200338, 26200339, 26200340, 26200341, 26200342, 26200343, 26200344, 26200345, 26200346, 26200347, 26200348, 26200349, 26200350, 26200351, 26200352, 26200353, 26200354, 26200355, 26200356, 26200357, 26200358, 26200359, 26200360, 26200361, 26200362, 26200363, 26200364, 26200365, 26200366, 26200367, 26200368, 26200369, 26200370, 26200371, 26200372, 26200373, 26200374, 26200375, 26200376, 26200377, 26200378, 26200379, 26200380, 26200381, 26200382, 26200383, 26200384, 26200385, 26200386, 26200387, 26200388, 26200389, 26200390, 26200391, 26200392, 26200393, 26200394, 26200395, 26200396, 26200397, 26200398, 26200399, 26200400, 26200401, 26200402, 26200403, 26200404, 26200405, 26200406, 26200407, 26200408, 26200409, 26200410, 26200411, 26200412, 26200413, 26200414, 26200415, 26200416, 26200417, 26200418, 26200419, 26200420, 26200421, 26200422, 26200423, 26200424, 26200425, 26200426, 26200427, 26200428, 26200429, 26200430, 26200431, 26200432, 26200433, 26200434, 26200435, 26200436, 26200437, 26200438, 26200439, 26200440, 26200441, 26200442, 26200443, 26200444, 26200445, 26200446, 26200447, 26200448, 26200449, 26200450, 26200451, 26200452, 26200453, 26200454, 26200455, 26200456, 26200457, 26200458, 26200459, 26200460, 26200461, 26200462, 26200463, 26200464, 26200465, 26200466, 26200467, 26200468, 26200469, 26200470, 26200471, 26200472, 26200473, 26200474, 26200475, 26200476, 26200477, 26200478, 26200479, 26200480, 26200481, 26200482, 26200483, 26200484, 26200485, 26200486, 26200487, 26200488, 26200489, 26200490, 26200491, 26200492, 26200493, 26200494, 26200495, 26200496, 26200497, 26200498, 26200499, 26200500, 26200501, 26200502, 26200503, 26200504, 26200505, 26200506, 26200507, 26200508, 26200509, 26200510, 26200511, 26200512, 26200513, 26200514, 26200515, 26200516, 26200517, 26200518, 26200519, 26200520, 26200521, 26200522, 26200523, 26200524, 26200525, 26200526, 26200527, 26200528, 26200529, 26200530, 26200531, 26200532, 26200533, 26200534, 26200535, 26200536, 26200537, 26200538, 26200539, 26200540, 26200541, 26200542, 26200543, 26200544, 26200545, 26200546, 26200547, 26200548, 26200549, 26200550, 26200551, 26200552, 26200553, 26200554, 26200555, 26200556, 26200557, 26200558, 26200559, 26200560, 26200561, 26200562, 26200563, 26200564, 26200565, 26200566, 26200567, 26200568, 26200569, 26200570, 26200571, 26200572, 26200573, 26200574, 26200575, 26200576, 26200577, 26200578, 26200579, 26200580, 26200581, 26200582, 26200583, 26200584, 26200585, 26200586, 26200587, 26200588, 26200589, 26200590, 26200591, 26200592, 26200593, 26200594, 26200595, 26200596, 26200597, 26200598, 26200599, 26200600, 26200601, 26200602, 26200603, 26200604, 26200605, 26200606, 26200607, 26200608, 26200609, 26200610, 26200611, 26200612, 26200613, 26200614, 26200615, 26200616, 26200617, 26200618, 26200619, 26200620, 26200621, 26200622, 26200623, 26200624, 26200625, 26200626, 26200627, 26200628, 26200629, 26200630, 26200631, 26200632, 26200633, 26200634, 26200635, 26200636, 26200637, 26200638, 26200639, 26200640, 26200641, 26200642, 26200643, 26200644, 26200645, 26200646, 26200647, 26200648, 26200649, 26200650, 26200651, 26200652, 26200653, 26200654, 26200655, 26200656, 26200657, 26200658, 26200659, 26200660, 26200661, 26200662, 26200663, 26200664, 26200665, 26200666, 26200667, 26200668, 26200669, 26200670, 26200671, 26200672, 26200673, 26200674, 26200675, 26200676, 26200677, 26200678, 26200679, 26200680, 26200681, 26200682, 26200683, 26200684, 26200685, 26200686, 26200687, 26200688, 26200689, 26200690, 26200691, 26200692, 26200693, 26200694, 26200695, 26200696, 26200697, 26200698, 26200699, 26200700, 26200701, 26200702, 26200703, 26200704, 26200705, 26200706, 26200707, 26200708, 26200709, 26200710, 26200711, 26200712, 26200713, 26200714, 26200715, 26200716, 26200717, 26200718, 26200719, 26200720, 26200721, 26200722, 26200723, 26200724, 26200725, 26200726, 26200727, 26200728, 26200729, 26200730, 26200731, 26200732, 26200733, 26200734, 26200735, 26200736, 26200737, 26200738, 26200739, 26200740, 26200741, 26200742, 26200743, 26200744, 26200745, 26200746, 26200747, 26200748, 26200749, 26200750, 26200751, 26200752, 26200753, 26200754, 26200755, 26200756, 26200757, 26200758, 26200759, 26200760, 26200761, 26200762, 26200763, 26200764, 26200765, 26200766, 26200767, 26200768, 26200769, 26200770, 26200771, 26200772, 26200773, 26200774, 26200775, 26200776, 26200777, 26200778, 26200779, 26200780, 26200781, 26200782, 26200783, 26200784, 26200785, 26200786, 26200787, 26200788, 26200789, 26200790, 26200791, 26200792, 26200793, 26200794, 26200795, 26200796, 26200797, 26200798, 26200799, 26200800, 26200801, 26200802, 26200803, 26200804, 26200805, 26200806, 26200807, 26200808, 26200809, 26200810, 26200811, 26200812, 26200813, 26200814, 26200815, 26200816, 26200817, 26200818, 26200819, 26200820, 26200821, 26200822, 26200823, 26200824, 26200825, 26200826, 26200827, 26200828, 26200829, 26200830, 26200831, 26200832, 26200833, 26200834, 26200835, 26200836, 26200837, 26200838, 26200839, 26200840, 26200841, 26200842, 26200843, 26200844, 26200845, 26200846, 26200847, 26200848, 26200849, 26200850, 26200851, 26200852, 26200853, 26200854, 26200855, 26200856, 26200857, 26200858, 26200859, 26200860, 26200861, 26200862, 26200863, 26200864, 26200865, 26200866, 26200867, 26200868, 26200869, 26200870, 26200871, 26200872, 26200873, 26200874, 26200875, 26200876, 26200877, 26200878, 26200879, 26200880, 26200881, 26200882, 26200883, 26200884, 26200885, 26200886, 26200887, 26200888, 26200889, 26200890, 26200891, 26200892, 26200893, 26200894, 26200895, 26200896, 26200897, 26200898, 26200899, 26200900, 26200901, 26200902, 26200903, 26200904, 26200905, 26200906, 26200907, 26200908, 26200909, 26200910, 26200911, 26200912, 26200913, 26200914, 26200915, 26200916, 26200917, 26200918, 26200919, 26200920, 26200921, 26200922, 26200923, 26200924, 26200925, 26200926, 26200927, 26200928, 26200929, 26200930, 26200931, 26200932, 26200933, 26200934, 26200935, 26200936, 26200937, 26200938, 26200939, 26200940, 26200941, 26200942, 26200943, 26200944, 26200945, 26200946, 26200947, 26200948, 26200949, 26200950, 26200951, 26200952, 26200953, 26200954, 26200955, 26200956, 26200957, 26200958, 26200959, 26200960, 26200961, 26200962, 26200963, 26200964, 26200965, 26200966, 26200967, 26200968, 26200969, 26200970, 26200971, 26200972, 26200973, 26200974, 26200975, 26200976, 26200977, 26200978, 26200979, 26200980, 26200981, 26200982, 26200983, 26200984, 26200985, 26200986, 26200987, 26200988, 26200989, 26200990, 26200991, 26200992, 26200993, 26200994, 26200995, 26200996, 26200997, 26200998, 26200999, 26201000, 26201001, 26201002, 26201003, 26201004, 26201005, 26201006, 26201007, 26201008, 26201009, 26201010, 26201011, 26201012, 26201013, 26201014, 26201015, 26201016, 26201017, 26201018, 2620101

CLASSIFIEDS

Line Ad Rate:
\$15 for 15 words or less
Over 15 words, 50¢ a word

Breckenridge American 254-559-5412

breckenridgeamerican.com/classifieds • classified@grahamleader.com

Line Ad Deadlines
9:00 am Monday
(Classified line ad: an ad that runs with only words, no box)

Every housing advertisement published in the Breckenridge American is subject to all provisions of the Federal Fair Housing Act.

GET IT SOLD with a Classified Ad

510 HELP WANTED

MAINTENANCE CLERK
Full-time position for multi-restaurant group.

Need self-starter with good organizational skills, mechanically minded for parts and equipment ordering, invoicing, and inventory in Excel spreadsheets. Work directly with maintenance supervisor on orders, invoice coding and project follow up.

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM
Paid Holidays, PTO, Medical, dental, and vision are available.

APPLY ONLINE: www.richesondq.com

Help Wanted! Experienced maintenance person for small apartment complex. By appointment only. Call 254-559-6792.

SHOP LOCAL

NOW HIRING
at Breckenridge DQ

ABOVE AVERAGE PAY
MEAL DISCOUNTS
PTO & FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES FOR FULL AND PART TIME.

APPLY TODAY:
www.RichesonDQ.com

Be part of a fun, fast-paced team where your smile makes all the difference!

NEED A JOB?

NEED EMPLOYEES?

The Classifieds bring together job seekers and potential employers every day.

Breckenridge American CLASSIFIEDS

Featuring new listings every Wednesday!

254-559-5412

Support these local businesses!

The advertisers you see in this publication are who make it possible for us to bring the news to you.

The Breckenridge American appreciates their support and we encourage our readers to support them. These small businesses recognize the value of their customers and work hard to show you.

Supporting these local businesses supports your community and your community news source.

630 FOR SALE - HOMES

FOR SALE
8313 County Road 313
Breckenridge, TX

4 Beds 3 Bath Carport

\$5,000 interest rate buy-down offer!

Lower your interest rate with a \$5,000 seller provided credit!

CALEB MASTERS
CLARK REAL ESTATE GROUP

254-246-5705 Caleb@clarkreg.com

650 FOR SALE - FARM & RANCH

CAMPBELL FARM & RANCH

STEPHENS COUNTY	YOUNG COUNTY
742ac- Near Town, 5Ponds...\$3,995,000	584ac- Home, 6Pond...\$3,299,999
450ac- Home, Lodge, Exotics... SOLD	182ac- 2Ponds, Minerals... NEW \$822,900
320ac- Cabin, Creek... REDUCED \$1,680,000	180ac- 75% Woods, 3Ponds... \$1,024,650
254ac- 2Ponds, Woods...\$1,220,736	176ac- 3Ponds, Wood... REDUCED \$895,000
160ac- 3/2 Home, Pool... NEW \$1,950,000	160ac- Hunting, 2Ponds...\$920,000
152ac- 4Ponds w/Fish... NEW \$756,558	150ac- 3Ponds, Home...\$937,500
117ac- 3/3 Home, 3Ponds... NEW \$797,109	118ac- 2Ponds, Waterline...\$885,500
49ac- Utilities, Ponds w/Fish... NEW \$358,165	87ac- Brazos River, FM926...\$599,000
40ac- 1Pond, 5mi. to Breck... NEW \$239,200	80ac- 1Pond & Creek... NEW \$495,000
SHACKELFORD COUNTY	74ac- 2Ponds, Great Hunting...\$550,000
160ac- 3/2, Minerals... SOLD	50ac- 2Ponds, Home... MOTIVATED \$725,000
EASTLAND COUNTY	50ac- 1Pond, Water Meter...\$375,000
35ac- 25 ac Pond, Creek... REDUCED \$383,830	45ac- Creek, Pond, In-Town...\$795,000
THROCKMORTON COUNTY	38ac- Build to Suit, Fertile... NEW \$278,000
671ac- Hunting, 10Pond... NEW \$3,694,625	37ac- 1 ac Pond, Woodson... NEW \$278,000
632ac- Deer, Big Neighbors...\$3,475,500	20ac- 3/2 Home, Pond, Barn...\$499,000
315ac- Luxury Home, 6Ponds... SOLD	15ac- 3/2.5, Fishing Pond... MOTIVATED \$445,000
160ac- 45% Wooded, 2Ponds... PENDING	11ac- Brazos River, Ft... REDUCED \$450,000
117ac- 60ac field, 2Ponds... NEW \$346,800	JACK COUNTY
WWW.CFRLAND.COM	570ac- Lodge, High... REDUCED \$4,999,500
Boone Campbell, Broker	ARCHER COUNTY
Travis Patterson, Agent • Kathy Bailes, Agent	14ac- Home/Business... REDUCED \$160,000
Heath Kramer, Agent • LaChelle Clark, Agent	CALL TODAY!
David Campbell, Agent	(940) 549-7700

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: Errors & Adjustments

Please check your ad the first day that it runs to see that all of the information is correct. This will ensure that your ad is exactly what you want readers to see. Call us at 254-559-5412 the first day if you find an error. We must limit our financial responsibilities, if any, to the charge for the space and cannot be responsible for incorrect ads after the first day of publication.

DON'T FORGET!

Classified Ads are FREE ONLINE!

Place your ad today & get **double exposure!**

Call us today at **254-559-5412**

Breckenridge American

All Breckenridge - All the Time

www.breckenridgeamerican.com

CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS!

CALL US AT 254-559-5412 TODAY!

Even Exchange answers

- Bland, Blend
- Ranger, Ringer
- Format, Fonnal
- Crown, Crouk
- Acorn, Adorn
- Ritter, Butter
- Cairo, Calm
- Faint, Flint
- Harsli, Marsh
- Kermei, Kernel

SCRAMBLERS solution

- Epoch
- Acumen;
- Except;
- Cheap

Today's Word
COUCH

King Crossword - Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

J	A	B	H	E	H	F	A	L	L	S		
U	N	O	M	R	I	U	L	E	E	S		
M	D	S	O	N	T	H	E	S	I	D		
F	R	S	S	E	Q	U	L					
S	E	A	S	S	R	S	S	T	O	P		
	W	E	T	K	D	L	A	N	G			
A	T	R	I	A		R	A	I	T	A		
A	V	E	R	T	S		B	U	T			
H	A	L	L	A	C	E	S	A	N	K		
		S	W	E	L	L		T	I	E		
S	T	I	D	E	I	S	S	U	E	O	V	A
A	R	I	E	S		A	G	A		L	E	T
Y	A	N	N	I		R	A	D		L	A	S

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN Week of Aug. 24-30, 2025

AGRICULTURE
Be tough when it's tough to talk. Even the toughest people need help sometimes. AgriStress Helpline for Texas, 833-897-2474.

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE
Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-855-493-3803.

CHARITY
Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-855-808-4152 today.

ENERGY
Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

FINANCIAL
10% Preferred Return + 2% Kicker. R.E. note backed fund. \$250K min. Accredited only. Call EJ@kingdom Asset Management, 214-830-2999. SEC Reg D 506(c) offering. Website: www.kamfunds.com.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferable warranty. Call today 1-833-460-3020 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 75% off installation and a bonus \$250 discount! Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

INTERNET
\$39 Blazing Fast Fiber Speeds! No contract! No credit check! Everyone qualifies! No buffering! Stream, game, work at incredible fiber speeds! Only \$39/month, 866-901-2652.

MEDICAL
DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-901-0467 www.dental50plus.com/tspres #6258

OIL & GAS
We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMinerals.LLC@gmail.com.

WANTED
Need Extra Cash - I Buy RVs & Mobile Homes - Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels, Goosenecks, Bumper Pulls. In Any Area, ANY Condition - Old/New, Dirty or Clean! I PAY CASH. No Title - No Problem, We can apply for one. We go anywhere in Texas. ANR Enterprises, 956-466-7001!

Texas Press Statewide Classified Network
184 Participating Texas Newspapers • Regional Ads
Start At \$250 • Email ads@texaspress.com

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. The FTC web site is www.ftc.gov/bizop.

Show & Sell

Browse & Buy

To Place Your Ad:
254-559-5412
admgr@breckenridgeamerican.com

Run Your Show & Sell Ad*
for as little as **\$14.95!**

*Show & Sell pricing not available for real property ads (homes, mobile homes, etc.). Up to 20 words, 50¢ per additional word. Only one item per ad.

To Subscribe:
254-559-5412
circulation@grahamleader.com

Get Free Unlimited Online Access
With Your **Home Delivery Subscription!**

Breckenridge American Classifieds
make it easy to connect with local buyers and sellers - in print and online!

WWW.BRECKENRIDGEAMERICAN.COM • 254-559-5412

700 FOR RENT - APARTMENTS

CONQUISTADOR APARTMENTS

1101 West Elliott • Breckenridge, TX 76424

VACANCIES **254-559-6792** VACANCIES

SPACIOUS 1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

On-Site Laundry • Close to Schools • Quality Affordable

SECTION 8 HOUSING AVAILABLE

— HANDICAP UNIT AVAILABLE —

— COME CHECK US OUT —



TDD# 800-735-2989

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider/Employer

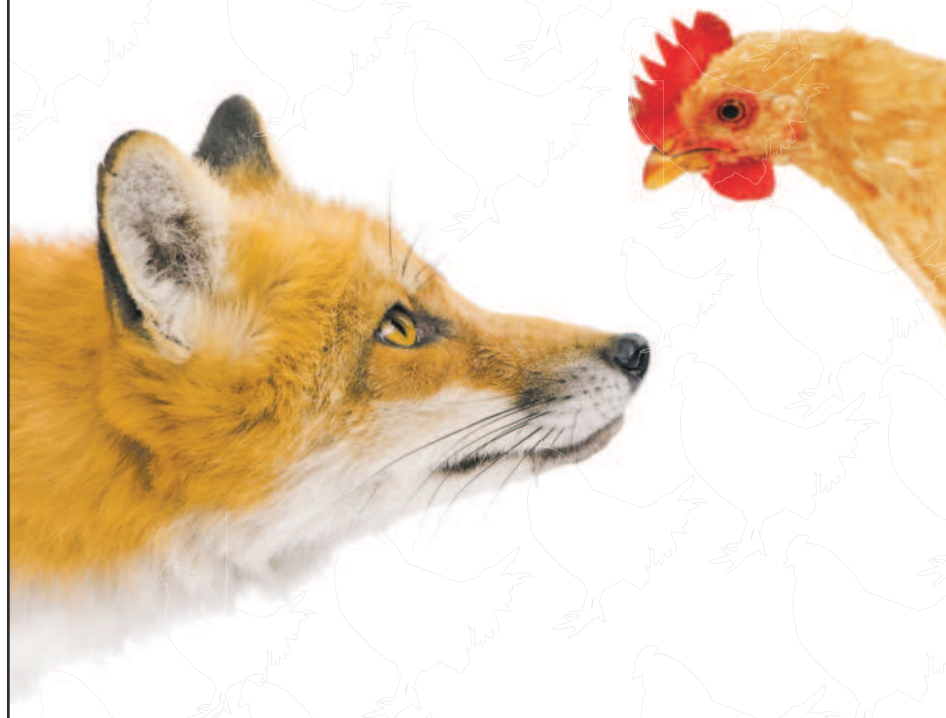


4653

WHEN PUBLIC NOTICES REACH THE PUBLIC, EVERYONE BENEFITS.

Some officials want to move notices from newspapers to government-run websites, where they may not be easily found.

This is like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.



Keep Public Notices in Newspapers



www.newsmediaalliance.org

24629

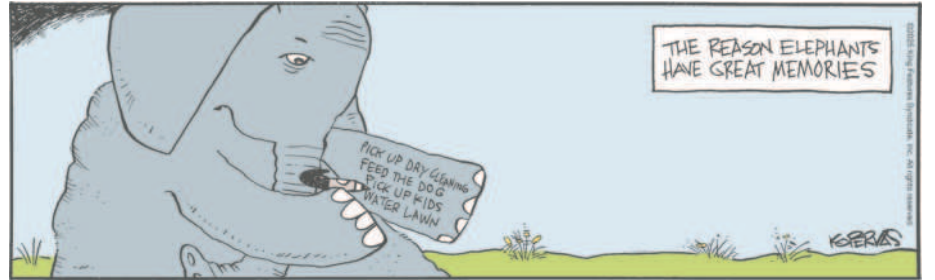
SELECT from the best local jobs

BreckenridgeAmerican.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Midweek Edition

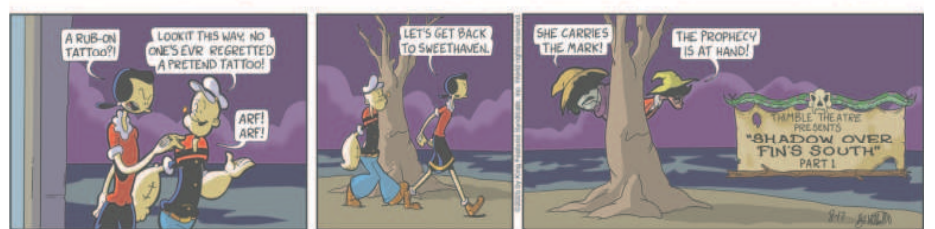
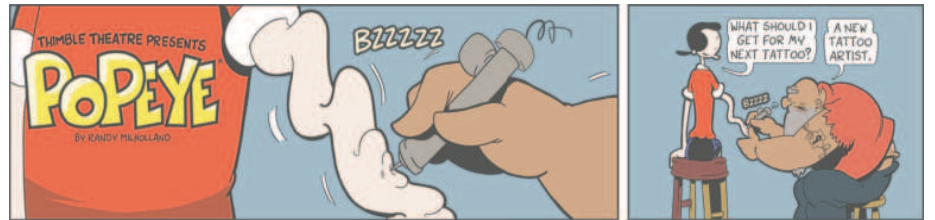
OUT ON A LIMB by Gary Kopervas



THE SPATS by Jeff Pickering



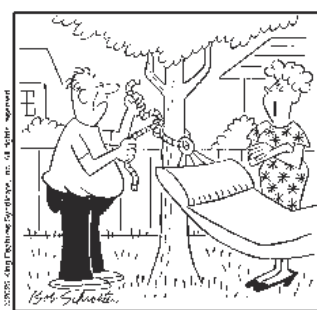
POPEYE by Randy Milholland



Even Exchange

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an T, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Tasteless | ___ A ___ | Combine | ___ E ___ |
| 2. Forestry worker | ___ A ___ | Horseshoes score | ___ I ___ |
| 3. Structure | ___ T ___ | Requiring a tuxedo | ___ L ___ |
| 4. Sing like Bing | ___ N ___ | Swindler | ___ K ___ |
| 5. Future oak | ___ C ___ | Make snazzier | ___ D ___ |
| 6. Extremely cold | ___ I ___ | Toast topping | ___ U ___ |
| 7. Nile River city | ___ O ___ | Terrier from Scotland | ___ N ___ |
| 8. Barely audible | ___ A ___ | Fire starter | ___ L ___ |
| 9. Severe, like winter | H ___ | Swampland | M ___ |
| 10. Dog shelter | ___ N ___ | Corn segment | ___ R ___ |



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Time: HECOP
- Intellect: MUNACE
- Save: EXPECT
- Budget: PEACH

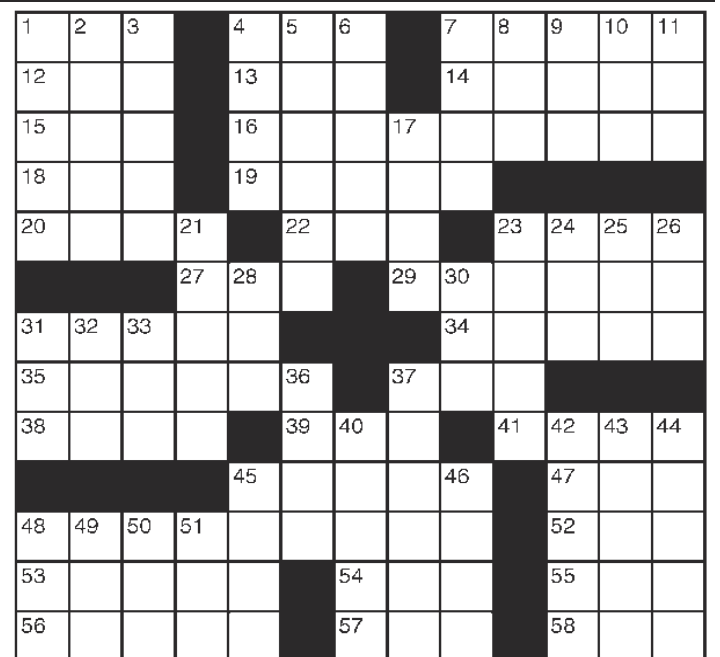
"I bet the _____ is glad that summer is here."

TODAY'S WORD

Crossword

ACROSS

- Poke
- Sneaky chuckle
- Niagara sight
- Dos preceder
- X-ray's cousin
- "— Gold" (Fonda film)
- Rx writers
- Salad dressing order
- 7, on older phones
- Capital of South Korea
- Salty waters
- Soon-to-be grads
- Desist
- Drench
- "Constant Craving" singer
- Places in the heart
- Indian yogurt dish
- Wards off
- However
- Corridor
- Expert
- Foundered
- "Peachy!"
- Cravat
- Tangential topic
- Eggs
- Zodiac ram
- Khan title



DOWN

- Checker moves
- Tennis great Agassi
- nova
- Med. plan options
- Papa Hemingway
- -miss
- Tank filler
- Gore and Green
- Floral necklace
- Guided
- Compass dir.
- Corn cover
- Marble cake pattern
- Bed boards
- chi
- Toronto's prov.
- Links org.
- Have lunch
- Actress Joanne
- Sound of relief
- FDR project
- Seminary subj.
- Tools with teeth
- Whale variety
- Activist Chavez
- Coral island
- Skin care brand
- "Endymion" poet
- Spanish ayes
- Pencil filler
- Utter
- Glass of public radio
- Cacophony
- Still, in verse

Look for answers in the Classifieds.

Bucks compete in final preseason tuneup at Wall

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

In their final scrimmage before the regular season, the Breckenridge Buckaroos showed promise and competitiveness against one of the top teams in the state.

Traveling to Wall High School, the Bucks had a number of positives to take away from the final tune-up against the third-ranked team in Class 3A Division II, Thursday, Aug. 22.

"I think I was made out to be a liar after the things I said last week when we were coming here. Playing a very good football team, they were going to try and eat us alive," Head Coach Casey Pearce said. "And at times they did, but we did sustain a couple of drives. Self-inflicted wounds got us, put us behind the sticks at times. We've got to continue to get better."

Defensively, the Bucks made plays on the ball and were consistently getting to the ball carrier.

However, the problems that they had were finishing the job and wrapping up to get the player down. They played with fire and physicality while creating some pressure, but allowed a handful



Quarterback Cooper Wimberly rolls out of the pocket as a couple of Wall defenders rush him during the Buckaroos' final scrimmage Thursday, Aug. 21.

Photo/Alex Kielar

of back-breaking plays downfield.

There were also plays where Wall receivers were allowed too much space to come down with wide-open catches and a big play.

"We still have a bunch of execution pieces to clean up," Pearce said. "Playing in space defensively is the hardest thing you do in sports, and we have to continue to learn how to do that."

Overall, the defense had great spurts of getting penetration in the middle, but other times were not fully getting to the ball carrier to get him down.

"We just have to continue to rally. We rallied to the football and then couldn't finish the job off," Pearce said. "That's frustrating, because you chip away at it, put them second-and-

See Bucks, Page 9



The Lady Bucks cross country team finished as runners-up in the Peaster Invitational for their first race of the season Saturday, Aug. 23. They had five runners in the top 20 and two freshmen girls finished in the top 15.

Contributed photo

Lady Bucks finish as runners-up in Peaster invitational; Bucks place 4th

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

As they began their seasons, the Lady Bucks and Bucks cross country teams participated in the Peaster High School Invitational Saturday, Aug. 22.

The Lady Bucks had the most success, finishing

as runners-up in the meet, just three points shy of first-place Peaster with 50 points in the two-mile run finals.

The Bucks, meanwhile, finished fourth with 89 points in the three-mile run finals, behind Peaster (71), Slidell (69) and Bridge-

port (29).

Freshmen Maylie Townson and Miley Ramirez finished in the top 15 at their first varsity meet.

"I'm so proud of how both teams competed...and how well our older kids are lead-

See Bucks, Page 9



The Bucks cross country team finished in fourth place overall in their opening meet at the Peaster Invitational, Saturday, Aug. 23, with three runners finishing in the top 20.

Contributed photo



The Lady Bucks prepare for a block attempt at the net against City View in their first match of the Lu Allen Memorial Tournament over this past weekend.

Photo/Alex Havardansky

Lady Bucks compete in Lu Allen tournament

Alex Kielar
news@breckenridgeamerican.com

The Lady Bucks traveled to Graham this past weekend to participate in the Lu Allen Memorial Tournament.

After going 1-3 in pool play Friday, Aug. 22, the Lady Bucks moved on to the silver bracket Saturday, Aug. 23, where they went 0-2 against Legacy and Sweetwater.

The Lady Bucks started the pool play of the tournament with a win against City View, sweeping the sets, 25-15 and 25-14. In that match, Ashlyn Owen led the squad with 10 successful digs, followed by Lane Bartoskewitz with eight, Isabelle Biddison with six, Analia Palacios, Kamden Tidwell and Sofia Lopez with three each and Preslie Mailcut and Kyra Canada with one each. Bartoskewitz led the team with three kills in the opening match, while Palacios led them with 13 assists.

The Lady Bucks struggled to keep up with their second opponent in Llano, losing 25-7 and 25-17 to fall

See Lu Allen, Page 9



Kamden Tidwell attempts a hit over the net as a City View player looks to block it in the opening match of the Lady Bucks' weekend in the Lu Allen Memorial Tournament in Graham.

Photo/Alex Havardansky



Preslie Mailcut goes up for a spike Friday, Aug. 22, against City View in the Lady Bucks' first match in pool play of the Lu Allen Memorial Tournament over the weekend.

Photo/Alex Havardansky



The Lady Bucks work to defend at the net during the Lu Allen Memorial Tournament in Graham in which they went 1-3 in pool play and 0-2 in the silver bracket during the second day of action.

Photo/Alex Havardansky

Lu Allen

Continued from Page 8

in straight sets. They stuck with Denver City in the first set of their third match, falling 25-19 before dropping the second set 25-9.

To close out pool play, Paradise got the best of the Lady Bucks, 25-11 and 25-14.

In bracket play, the team opened up against Legacy in the silver bracket and would fall, 25-9 and 25-15. Owen led the team with 10 digs in that match.

Moving over to the loser's side of that bracket, the Lady Bucks gave Sweetwater all that they could handle as the match stretched out to a third set.

In the first set, Sweetwater came away with

a 25-17 win before Breckenridge was able to take the second set, 25-20.

The Lady Bucks

were able to stick with Sweetwater in the winner-take-all third set, but ultimately fell 25-16.



Analia Palacios prepares to make a set pass during the Lady Bucks opening match against the City View Mustangs in pool play of the Lu Allen Memorial Tournament in Graham over this past weekend.

Photo/Alex Havardansky

XC

Continued from Page 8

ing our younger runners," Coach Valeria Williams said. "Big things are ahead for this group!"

Lady Bucks results

- 9. Saylor Townson, 14:07.09
- 11. Abbi Duran, 14:33.21
- 13. Maylie Town-

son, 14:43.26

- 14. Miley Ramirez, 14:43.99
- 18. Lizandra Rubio, 15:02.03
- 28. Elli Duran, 15:55.82
- 29. Abby Nye, 15:28.18

Bucks results

- 12. Gabriel Garcia, 19:21.50

14. Bodie Skiles, 19:32.65

- 18. Agustin Bryd, 20:10.11
- 23. Landon Elting, 20:37.34
- 34. Logan Thompson, 22:17.62
- 37. Maliki Smith, 22:40.46
- 38. Brysen Hash, 22:44.69



Joseph Juneau (7) and Hunter Davis (11) gang tackle the Wall ball carrier behind the line of scrimmage for a tackle for loss Thursday, Aug. 21 during the Bucks' scrimmage at Wall.

Photo/Alex Havardansky

Bucks

Continued from Page 8

long, third-and-long, and then they're able to convert and make a 10-yard gain on it."

When the Bucks were on point, they were able to wreak havoc with a couple of tackles for loss and two turnovers – one forced fumble and an interception from Hudson Woodward. Right before Zachary Beltran laid a hit down on a ball carrier for a tackle for loss, Coach Pearce was preaching "just one" as he wanted to see at least one play where they knocked a player down behind the line.

On offense, the Bucks are still rolling with a three-quarterback system with all of them competing for a chance at the starting role. Woodward, Joseph Juneau and Cooper Wimberly all gave receivers chances with strong throws and good decision-making.

"Overall, our quarterbacks gave us chances. We've got to catch contested footballs... there were a couple of bad throws, but for the most part they put the

ball in places that we could catch and had a chance," Pearce said. "We've got to be able to take opportunities and do something with them."



Senior receiver Arrion Mathews refused to go down during the Bucks' scrimmage Thursday, Aug. 21 at Wall, bouncing off defenders for long runs after screen passes.

Photo/Alex Havardansky



Junior defensive back Zachary Beltran pulls down a Wall ball carrier for a tackle for loss during the Bucks' final scrimmage at Wall High School, Thursday, Aug. 21.

Photo/Alex Havardansky

Today's Lesson: The Newspaper

1. Builds vocabulary
2. Improves reading skills
3. Promotes critical thinking
4. Brings ideas & current events to life
5. Builds global awareness
6. Promotes social consciousness
7. Makes learning fun!

Make reading the newspaper with your child a daily habit, and help your young student succeed.

STUDENT SUBSCRIPTION SPECIAL

Weekly delivery
Includes free e-edition access!
ONLY \$20.00*
6 MONTHS

Subscribe now thru August 31, 2025 to take advantage of this special offer if a student under age 18 lives in your household!

*New subscribers only. In County price only. Ask about other subscription options.



Did you know?

A study released by the Newspaper Association of America Foundation shows data indicating that students in Newspapers in Education programs perform 10 percent better on standardized tests.

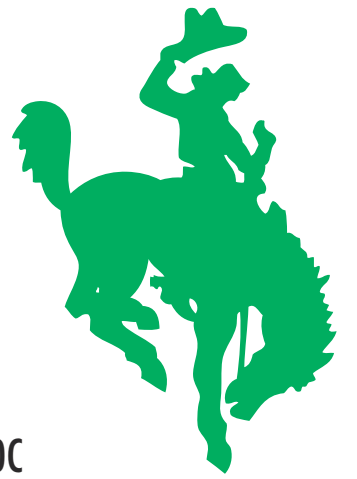
Individuals and businesses, you can help support newspapers in education with the gift of a classroom subscription.

Call 254-559-5412 today for details.

Breckenridge American

254-559-5412
www.breckenridgeamerican.com

BRECKENRIDGE ISD CALENDAR 2025-2026



No School **Staff Development Days** **Comp Day** **Bad Weather Days** **STAAR/EOC**

AUGUST 2025

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

August 2025
 1-4 Staff Dev. Days
 5 First Day of School

September 2025
 1 Labor Day
 19 Staff Dev. Day

November 2025
 7 Staff Workday
 24-28 Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2025
 6 Staff Dev. Day
 2-11 EOC Retakes
 22-31 Winter Holiday

January 2026
 1-2 Winter Holiday
 8 Comp Day
 23 Staff Workday

February 2026
 20 Staff Dev. Day

March 2026
 9-13 Spring Break
 20 Staff Dev. Day

April 2026
 7-30 STAAR/EOC

May 2026
 1 Staff Dev. Day
 8/15 Bad Weather Days
 21 Last Day of School
 22 BHS Graduation
 Staff Workday
 25 Memorial Day

June 2026
 16-26 STAAR/EOC Retakes

MAY 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Junior Buckaroo Academy
CHILD CARE CENTER



Highly Qualified Teachers • CACFP Food Program
 Child Care Assistance Program
 Texas Rising Star Provider
 Serving Infants up to 12 Years

www.JuniorAcademyChildcare.com
 110 N. Graham Avenue • Breckenridge, TX 76424
254-559-1234

1st Semester
 Aug. 5 - Sept. 1827 days
 Sept. 22 - Oct. 3025 days
 Nov. 3 - Dec. 1825 days
 Total77 days

2nd Semester
 Jan. 5 - Feb. 1224 days
 Feb. 16 - April 225 days
 April 6 - May 2129 days
 Total78 days

Student total 155 days
Staff total 169 days

East Elementary - 7:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 South Elementary - 7:55 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.
 Breckenridge Junior High School
 7:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
 Breckenridge High School
 7:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

JUNE 2026

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Have a great school year!


HOMETOWN BRAND CENTER

For All Your Home Needs

301 E. Walker St.
 Breckenridge, TX 76424
 254-559-2114

Appliances-Furniture-Mattresses

Welcome back students!



MOREHART MORTUARY
of Breckenridge & Albany

1101 W. Walker Street
 Breckenridge, TX 76424
 254.559.5421 • morehartmortuary.net

Welcome Back, Students!



Shirt Shop

1703 W. Walker St.
 Breckenridge, TX 76424
 254-559-2775



H&H GARDEN CENTER

3005 W. Walker Street
 Breckenridge, TX 76424
 254-559-7389

We make dirt look good!